THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • DECEMBER 30, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

IIP GROWTH AT 2-YEAR HIGH OF 6.7% IN NOV ON ROBUST MANUFACTURING

Factory output, based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew at 6.7% in November, driven by the manufacturing and mining sectors

STRONG GROWTH ON BACK OF GST CUTS

The Goods and Services Tax rates were cut on a host of consumer items to boost demand and consumption. This led to a piling up of manufacturing orders to take advantage of the GST rate reduction. The data showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew by 8%, up from 5.5% in the year-ago month. Mining production rose by 5.4%, against 1.9% a year earlier |P13

METALS, PHARMA BOOST MANUFACTURING

- "The growth is led by manufacture of basic metals, fabricated metal products, pharma and vehicles," the National Statistics Office said
- In manufacturing sector, 20 of 23 industry groups recorded growth
- The data also showed that power production contracted by 1.5% in November 2025 compared to 4.4% expansion in the year-ago period

11.9%

THE HIGHEST IIP GROWTH RECORDED IN RECENT TIMES. IT CAME IN NOV 2023

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

SC stays its Nov 20 fiat on Aravallis, to set up high-powered committee

Bench says its previous order invited applications and pleas questioning the 100-metre rule

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

Security officials outside the Supreme Court in New Delhi Monday | SHEKHAR YADAV

> **A committee of experts will be constituted to study environmental impact and assessment of the recommendations made by an earlier committee that comprised of bureaucrats** — CJI-led SC bench

Interim win, say environmentalists

Environmentalists objecting to the new definition of Aravallis welcomed the Supreme Court's move on Monday. Environmentalist Bhavreen Kandhari said, "This judicial intervention was much needed... the committee which is going to be formed should have ecologists, environmentalists and not just bureaucrats." Neelam Ahluwalia, founder member of the People for Aravallis collective, termed the directive of Monday as an "interim win".

THE Supreme Court on Monday put its November 20 order that accepted an elevation-linked defintion of the Aravallis on hold after environmental groups raised serious concerns that the new definition could lead to unbridled mining in one of the world's oldest mountain ranges.

A vacation bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih said the court's November 20 order had "critical ambiguities" that needed to be cleared up. The bench proposed forming a panel of experts to study the issue more carefully.

"We direct that recommendations of the committee and findings of the Supreme Court shall remain in abeyance till then. The case to be taken up on January 21, 2026," said the three-judge bench. The court had on November 20 accepted a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges and banned fresh mining leases. The SC had also accepted the recommendations of a committee of the Environment Ministry that had recommended that "Aravalli Hill" be defined as any landform with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local relief, and an "Aravalli Range" as a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other.

In its order on Monday, the court said, "It seems prima facie that both the committee's report and the judgment of this court have omitted to expressly clarify certain critical issues."

The court said that the ministry's definition might create a problem where protected areas become smaller while unprotected "non-Aravalli" areas become larger.

The bench issued notice in the matter and requested the Attorney General R Venkataramani to assist the Court, including in the composition of the expert panel.

The problem started because Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat each had their own definitions of what counts as Aravalli Hills and Ranges, leading to loopholes that allowed illegal mining. P9

2017 UNNAO RAPE CASE

SC stays Delhi HC order suspending Sengar's life term

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

STRESSING that even the "finest judges are prone to errors" and judicial scrutiny is part of the system, the Supreme Court on Monday stayed a December 23 High Court order suspending the life sentence of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case. The top court said Sengar shall not be released from custody.

A vacation bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih, which was hearing the CBI's plea challenging the high court order, said "substantial questions of law have arisen in the matter that require consideration". The court issued notice to Sengar seeking his response in four weeks.

The bench said it was conscious of the fact that ordinarily, when a convict or an undertrial was released on bail after an order passed by a court, such order shall not be stayed by it without hearing that person. It noted that Sengar was also convicted and sentenced in a separate case and was still in custody in that matter.

"In the peculiar circumstances of the case, we stay the operation of the impugned order dated December 23, 2025, passed by the high court," it said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the CBI, urged the bench to stay the high court order, saying it was a "horrific rape" of a child.

The Delhi HC had, in its December 23 order, held Sengar was convicted under Section 5 (C) (sexual assault by a public servant) of POCSO Act but an elected representative does not fit the definition of a "public servant" under the IPC.

The bench observed it was worried that a constable or a 'patwari' will be a 'public servant' in such an offence but a MP or MLA may be exempted if this interpretation was construed to be correct.

ICL
ICL Fincorp
GOLD LOAN @ 7.5 PAISE
MONTHLY INTEREST RATE PER ₹ 100
LOW INTEREST RATE
HIGH VALUE | EASY PROCESSING
TOLL-FREE : 1800 31 333 53

EXPRESS
HEALTH
A 52-page special booklet highlighting Bengaluru's healthcare ecosystem and leading providers, released alongside this edition

EXPRESS READ

Gig workers' stir on Dec 31 to hit deliveries

Bengaluru: With app-based delivery gig workers planning a nationwide strike on December 31, e-commerce services, particularly "10-minute deliveries" and instant availability of essentials are likely to be hit in Karnataka on New Year's Eve. Protesters termed the action a "digital protest" aimed at disrupting peak-hour deliveries | P2

LEADERSHIP DISPUTE

C.A.T. REMOVES BRAHMOS CHIEF FROM POST

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a rare development, the Hyderabad-bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) on Monday directed that the sitting Director General and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Brahmos Aerospace Jaiteerth R Joshi be removed from the post.

Jaiteerth R Joshi

The CAT also asked the defence ministry to reconsider the claim of the senior-most scientist, Sivasubramaniam Nambi Naidu, for the top post. This newspaper was the first to report on December 2, 2024 that the appointment was challenged in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Hyderabad.

The crisis stemmed from the appointment of Joshi as the CEO. The decision was contested by Sivasubramanyam Nambi Naidu, alleging he was superseded during the selection.

The tribunal, referring to the Standard Operating Procedure, said the Secretary, DDR&D and Chairman of the DRDO can approve one of the names in the panel submitted by the selection committee for appointment to the position of director general. But, as per CAT, they cannot ignore the entire service record of the other scientists.

Jaiteerth R Joshi took over the charge on December 2, 2024. Sources said Naidu, a 'Distinguished Scientist', is seven years senior to Joshi and has served as an 'Outstanding Scientist' since 2017, a position Joshi currently holds. With only three years left in service, Naidu's plea is to consider his seniority and experience.

B'deshis harassed, refused treatment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

TWO Bangladeshi nationals travelling to Bhubaneswar for medical treatment were subjected to police verification on arrival at the airport on Sunday night after the locals raised suspicion on their identity. Furthermore, the hospital concerned also reportedly refused admission fearing trouble and both were forced to return to Mumbai from where they had flown in.

According to police sources, the two brothers, aged 49 and 35, arrived from Mumbai after flying in from Dubai, where they were working. The elder sibling, who is suffering from a cardiac ailment, was scheduled to undergo treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar.

The hospital had arranged an ambulance to receive them. However, it failed to arrive and the two attempted to hire a taxi. When the cab driver learnt they were Bangladeshi citizens, he alerted others and police who verified travel documents and cleared them.

However, police sources said the private hospital declined to admit the ailing man, citing concerns over possible backlash.

EXTORTION

FIR AGAINST JOURNO

Accused attempted to extort Rs 5 lakh from three police inspectors by threatening with a fabricated news story linked to 'the Maharashtra ANTF drug factory raid | P5

Lost Money in a Financial Fraud?
Investments lost in fraudulent schemes?
सचेत
An SLCC Initiative
I lost money to a fraudster online!
A company offered me high returns and is now untraceable!
Lodge your complaint on SACHET PORTAL
• Provides information and guidance for filing complaints related to financial irregularities.
• Complaints lodged on Sachet Portal are redirected to the concerned authorities to initiate necessary actions.
• User can track their complaints on the Portal.
File your complaints on https://sachet.rbi.org.in
RBI Kehta Hai...
Sachet rahein, Surakshit rahein!
For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/sachet
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in
Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

'Victims' evicted from Kogilu to get houses: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TO tamp down the controversy surrounding the demolition of 167 illegally constructed 'sheds' at Kogilu in north Bengaluru, the Karnataka government on Monday decided to allocate alternative houses to genuine victims, who do not have either houses or residential sites.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority will on Tuesday and Wednesday scrutinise genuine beneficiaries and accommodation will be provided to them on Thursday. These houses will be within 7 km from Kogilu.

The sheds were demolished on December 20.

CONTINUED ON: P2

Strict drunk driving checks across city on New Year's Eve

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TRAFFIC changes have been made at important places in the city to ensure a smooth flow of traffic on New Year's Eve. The Bengaluru Traffic Police have identified 166 points to conduct drink and drive special drives across the city, while 92 locations will be closely monitored to prevent wheeling, stunt riding and rash driving.

In all, 50 flyovers will be closed from 11 pm on Wednesday till 6 am on Thursday. Only four-wheelers are allowed on the International Airport Road flyover. Ten drones, 249 Cobra vehicles and 400 traffic wardens are being used to ensure a safe and orderly New Year celebration.

The police will restrict the movement of traffic in the Central Business District (CBD) and banned parking of vehicles on MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, St Mark's Road, Rest House Road and Residency Road on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Except the vehicles of the police and essential services on duty, all other vehicles will be denied entry on these roads from 8 pm on Wednesday till 2 am the next day. Parking on these roads will be banned from 4 pm on Wednesday till 3 am on Thursday.

Only unidirectional movement will be allowed for the public visiting these roads.

Meetings have been held with taxi aggregators to provide transport from places where there will be large gatherings. Any unreasonable surge in prices will also invite trouble for taxi aggregators. CURBS IN PLACE: P3